

Message Text

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61

ACTION AGR-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-02

FRB-01 OMB-01 /052 W

----- 114898

R 311608Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6421

INFO USMISSION USEC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY BONN

UNCLAS DUBLIN 214

FROM AG ATTACHE - PASS AGRICULTURE

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR EI

SUBJ: IRELAND: SUGAR/BEET GROWERS' BOYCOTT

1. THE THREAT BY IRISH FARMERS ASSOCIATION (IFA) NOT TO PLANT THE 1975 SUGAR BEET CROP CONTINUES AFTER IFA COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS YESTERDAY AND A MEETING BETWEEN IFA CHIEF T. J. MAHER AND AGMIN. CLINTON.

2. CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING PRESENT DEADLOCK WERE DETAILED IN ATTACHE REPORT IL 5001 JAN. 17 TO FAS/W. HOWEVER, PRINCIPAL PROBLEMS, NOW CLEARLY (1) OBJECTION TO "DOUBLE TAXATION", WHEREBY LARGER FARMERS PAY INCOME TAX PLUS LARGE SUMS IN LAND RATES AND, (2) IMPLEMENTATION OF AN EFFECTIVE FLOOR PRICE FOR YOUNG FEEDER CATTLE.

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EM EFFECTS OF TOTAL BEET BOYCOTT WOULD BE VERY SERIOUS NATIONALLY AND COULD MEAN (1) EXTRA IMPORTS OF SOME 100,000 TONS OF SUGAR AND MOLASSES, (2) COLLAPSE OF 40 MILLION POUND STERLING IRISH SUGAR INDUSTRY MAKING 5,000 WORKERS UNEMPLOYED, THREATENING A FURTHER 20,000 WORKERS' JOBS AND AFFECTING INCOMES OF FARMERS THEMSELVES.

4. HOWEVER, EVEN IF IFA GO AHEAD, BOYCOTT IS UNLIKELY TO GET TOTAL SUPPORT, ALTHOUGH PLANTINGS COULD BE CUT BY ONE THIRD OR MORE.

5. IT IS GENERALLY FELT, DESPITE APPARENT WIDE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GOI AND FARMERS, THAT THE BOYCOTT WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO DEVELOP. GOI HAS BEEN QUICK TO POINT OUT THAT FARMERS THEMSELVES WOULD BE HURT SHOULD SUGAR INDUSTRY COLLAPSE AND WITH IMPROVING CATTLE PRICES, MUCH OF THE IMPETUS WILL BE TAKEN OUT OF CAMPAIGN. HOWEVER, THE PRESENT UNCERTAINTY MEANS THAT PLANTINGS ARE ALREADY BEGINNING TO BE EFFECTED WITH SOME FARMERS TURNING TO CEREALS. UNLESS SETTLEMENT IS REACHED SHORTLY, IRELAND'S 1975 PRODUCTION WILL TAKE A FURTHER DROP FROM LAST YEAR'S 144,000 METRIC TONS OF RAW SUGAR. RENDAHL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SUGAR, BOYCOTTS, VEGETABLES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DUBLIN00214
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750037-0137
From: DUBLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975014/aaaaacrr.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AGR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 APR 2003 by MarshK0>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IRELAND: SUGAR/BEET GROWERS' BOYCOTT
TAGS: EAGR, EI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006